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QUARTERLY JOURNAL

OF THE

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

JUNE, 1844.

*Tenth Annual Report of the Council of the Statistical Society of London.
Session 1843-4.*

IN rendering an account of their stewardship for the year which is now closed, the Council have to congratulate the Fellows of this Society on its continued prosperity during a period which has been felt by others as one of depression. The number of its Fellows has increased; the subscriptions were never before so well paid; there is not a debt of any kind outstanding; that which used formerly to anticipate a part of the current income of each year has been wholly discharged; and, notwithstanding the outlay of 50*l.* in furniture, and the other extraordinary expenditure incurred by the removal to new apartments, the funded property of the Society remains undiminished.

The removal to apartments more commodious, more accessible, and more advantageously situated, has been desired from the very foundation of the Society, and has at length been effected, as it is hoped, to the general satisfaction of the Fellows. The handsome rooms which the Society now occupies possess every advantage for daily resort, and for the meetings of Councils and Committees. Their arrangement in suite affords great relief to crowded meetings; and the principal meeting-room itself, though it has not the area of the one formerly used, yet, owing to the economy of space which its shape admits, its better means of ventilation, and its situation comparatively remote from the noise of any paved street, affords superior accommodation to an equal number of Fellows. Nor are these advantages obtained at any great pecuniary sacrifice; for though the rent of the present rooms is 200*l.* per annum, while that of the former was only 105*l.*, yet 26*l.*, formerly paid to servants, is now included in the larger sum; from which has further to be deducted the local taxes remitted to this as to other scientific societies, by an Act of the last session. The additional charges will thus be reduced to about 50*l.* per annum, which the Council have reason to believe will be fully defrayed by the progressive increase in the number of Fellows, which more commodious rooms must tend to encourage.

The number of Fellows, at the date of the last annual meeting, was 416. The number since elected is 21; but the number of deaths and withdrawals reduces the increase to 10; so that the present number of Fellows is 426. The clear income of the Society is about 930*l.* per annum; its fixed expenditure, including that upon the Journal, will now

be about 830*l.*; there is therefore a surplus of 100*l.* per annum, available for original inquiries and the augmentation of the library.

At the close of the last session, the Council advertised the Fellows at large of the removal to Regent-street, by means of a circular reciting the objects of the Society, and describing the extent to which they have been carried out, in terms which form the best introduction it can offer to a brief notice of what has been done in the course of the past year, and of the objects which the Council next propose to attain.

“The Statistical Society of London was founded on the 15th of March, 1834, in pursuance of a recommendation of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, for the purpose of collecting, arranging, and publishing facts calculated to illustrate the condition and prospects of society, and especially facts which can be stated numerically and arranged in tables. The collection of new statistical materials, it was contemplated, would form only one part of the Society’s labours; the condensation, arrangement, and publication of those already existing, whether unpublished or published only in an expensive or diffuse form, or in foreign languages, being a work of equal usefulness. It was also a prominent object of the Society to form a complete statistical library as rapidly as its funds would permit.

“Such was the purport of the original Prospectus; and now that the Society has reached the eleventh year of a prosperous existence, its Fellows have every reason to revert with satisfaction to this outline of its objects; for it is very seldom that the first designs of a public association for the advancement of science are all carried out with so much success. The resources of the Society were, in the first instance, chiefly devoted, under the direction of its Committees, to the collection of new statistical information, and to this great purpose a part of its funds is still appropriated. Its monthly meetings have cultivated among its Fellows an active spirit of investigation, and brought out the valuable results of much individual labour. Its Journal has fulfilled the purpose of condensation and publication; and the valuable books and papers which have already been collected form a library of facts of no mean utility.

“The Sixth Annual Report of the Society, which contains an elaborate description of the scope and system of its labours, divides statistics into the following chief sections:—

“I. The *Statistics of Physical Geography, Division, and Appropriation*; or, geographical and proprietary statistics.

“II. The *Statistics of Production*; or, agricultural, mining, fishery, manufacturing, and commercial statistics.

“III. The *Statistics of Instruction*; or, ecclesiastical, scientific, literary, university, and school statistics.

“IV. The *Statistics of Protection*; or, constitutional, military and naval, judicial, criminal, and police statistics.

“V. The *Statistics of Life, of Consumption, and of Enjoyment*; or, of population, health, the distribution and consumption of the commodities of life, and public and private charity.

“All the departments of statistics above described may be cultivated to the developement of as many branches of moral science, and to the attainment of that true insight into the actual condition of society, without which the application of remedial measures is purely empirical.

“Under this conviction, the original Prospectus announced the intention of the Society carefully to exclude all ‘opinions’ from its publications; not, assuredly, with the view of discouraging the proper use of hypothetical reasoning, but for the purpose of devoting the pages of its transactions to facts, and not to systems. In the pursuit of almost every investigation, the inquirer will adopt some hypothesis; but its truth and completeness, or its fallaciousness and insufficiency, must be demonstrated by observation and experiment. It is therefore the main purpose of scientific associations to call forth and register the results obtained by these processes; and observation in the wide field of human interests supplies those ‘facts calculated to illustrate the condition and prospects of society,’ which it is the design of the Statistical Society to ‘collect, arrange, and publish.’

“The pursuit of statistical inquiries has already made such progress, not in England alone, but throughout Europe, as henceforth to be a necessity of the age, and one of its most honourable characteristics. Thus errors as to the actual condition and prospects of society are daily exploded, and more just data are supplied to guide the exertions of the philanthropist, the judgment of the legislator, and the speculations of the reasoner. The labours of the statist, indeed, can alone assure us that we are really advancing in that knowledge of human interests in the aggregate to which it is no longer possible to deny the name of science.”

The extraordinary expenditure connected with the removal to new and more expensive apartments restrained the Council from making any outlay upon original inquiries during the past year; but, at the commencement of the present, they availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the unembarrassed state of their funds to cancel a debt due to the Rev. E. Wyatt Edgell, on account of part of his advances to the Education Committee, by the payment of a sum of 25*l.*, long ago promised by the Council to that Committee, and the greater part of which was immediately returned by Mr. Edgell in the form of a composition. The fifth Report of the Education Committee, for which a larger sum advanced by that gentleman had contributed to procure materials, was read before the Society on the 19th of June last, and embraced the final results of a series of inquiries, embracing the means of education possessed by more than one half of the metropolitan population.

The Council have great gratification in announcing a fresh instance of benevolent zeal for the improvement of our knowledge of the condition of the poorer classes in large towns. The liberality of Lord Sandon, to which the Society was indebted last year for a very interesting report on the condition of the poorer classes in the parish of St. George Hanover-square, has been imitated by Mr. Hallam, who is one of the Society’s trustees, and has given to its funds a donation of 25*l.*, for the purpose of carrying out a similar investigation in some other part of the metropolis. The Council have accordingly selected St. George’s-in-the-East as a district comprising a considerable population of the labouring classes, whose condition resembles in many respects that of the people in many surrounding districts, and must afford interesting points of comparison with that of the working classes in St. George’s in the West.

Nor is this the only original investigation which the Council have to submit to the approval of the Fellows. The amount of human misery existing in the metropolis, and the sums devoted to its relief, are enor-

mous ; but the proportions which they bear to each other, and the extent to which each class of evils is palliated, are wholly unknown. There is thus reason to fear that, for want of some comprehensive view of the whole of the facts, many well-intentioned efforts at relief are either entirely frustrated or fall far short of the benevolent intentions of their originators. The Council, therefore, not with any view of discouraging or controlling, but with that of aiding and enlightening the efforts of voluntary charity, submit the propriety of as many of the Fellows as are disposed actively to interest themselves in such a labour, forming themselves into a Committee, and employing a limited sum in the collection of those statistics of the existing voluntary charities, which, with the published accounts of the endowed charities, and such statistics of the assessed charity as the documents of the Poor Law Commission may afford, shall supply the materials for a general classification of charities, with reference to their objects, and to the extent to which these are attained.

There is another subject, nearly related to the above, which the Council would likewise recommend for systematic investigation by a Committee, viz., the statistics of sickness and mortality, derivable from the experience of existing benefit societies, and applicable to the improvement of the laws of sickness and mortality used by those bodies. Such societies are a favourite form of provident association among the labouring classes, and one which is not likely to be soon laid aside for any more refined system. By the means proposed they may be preserved from the decay into which the greater number successively fall ; and this would be a charity in the highest sense ; one for which gratitude would involve no feeling of humiliation. Returns by all the registered societies are already made to the Home Office. If these afford sufficient materials, their data ought to be reduced ; if not, their form should be improved, or other modes of recording and collecting information should be instituted. Through whatever processes it may be attained, the establishment of correct laws of sickness will add an important branch to social science, and add much to the means of self-improvement possessed by the poorer classes.

The Hospital Statistics Committee have procured a second enumeration of the patients in the hospitals of the metropolis ; an abstract has been made of the principal facts by a distinguished member of that Committee ; and some corroborative evidence, which is now being prepared from the general registration of deaths, will enable it very shortly to present a second Report to the Society. This will form an interesting addition to the various reports of Committees on Vital Statistics, which have repeatedly been the subject of honourable mention by recent journalists and writers.

Notwithstanding the economy which has been forced upon the Council during the past year with regard to original investigations, those who have attended the monthly meetings are well aware that the want of the results of such investigations has not there been felt, owing to the constant supply by individual members of original papers, conveying the results of new and extensive experience, or of great labour and patient thought. The Statistics of Justice in India, by Colonel Sykes ; those of the division of property in France, by Sir John P. Boileau, Bart. ; those of the influence of seasons and employments on health, by Dr. Guy ; those of the sanatory condition of various districts, by Mr. Chadwick

and Mr. Neison; and those of the metropolis, by Mr. Fletcher; are instances in point.

Another evidence of the interesting character of the Society's transactions, is the increasing sale of its Journal, of which the volume just completed will be found to have many advantages over its predecessors. There is, however, an improvement connected with it which the Council propose to carry into effect, with the number which is now due. This is, to distribute it to the Fellows resident in London, free of expense, by the hands of the Society's servants, in lieu of continuing the present arrangement with a Parcels Delivery Company, which throws the charge upon the Fellows, and is accompanied by other inconveniences.

It is hoped that the labours of the House Committee,* in regard to the new apartments of the Society, and the furnishing of them, will afford that satisfaction to the Fellows at large, which the Council must, on their own account, beg permission to express, in regarding the neatness of every arrangement, and the economy which has restrained the whole cost within the estimate originally submitted. The library, too, has undergone a thorough revision and management, under the directions of the Library Committee, led by the zeal of Dr. Lister. Every effort is being made to perfect the two catalogues of the library, and it is proposed to render the classed catalogue more complete, by adding to the entries of books, others of the valuable essays scattered through the periodical works of a scientific character. So soon as these two catalogues can be made sufficiently perfect, the Council propose to print them. Every Fellow will then be able to procure a copy, by which he may know the extent of assistance which the library will afford to his investigations, without the trouble on each occasion of personally referring to its manuscript catalogues, at the rooms of the Society. By these means the materials accumulated in the library will be rendered much more available, and its usefulness greatly extended.

It is with feelings of the highest gratification that the Council beg leave finally to notice the regard for such a central depository of the evidence on which social science can alone be safely based, which has just been expressed in a communication made to the Society by Her Majesty and Prince Albert. Major Graham, the Registrar-General, having received his Royal Highness Prince Albert's commands to transmit to the Statistical Society a beautiful illuminated sheet, containing the "*Tableau Général des Décès du Canton de Genève, pendant l'Année 1842,*" composed by M. Marc d'Espine, was honoured also with Her Majesty's commands, to express Her Majesty's gracious wish that it should be deposited with other documents of a similar nature in the library of this Society. This condescension and favour will, it is hoped by the Council, induce the Fellows of the Society generally to regard their library in the same important light, and to omit no opportunity of enriching and improving it.

For the details of the Society's pecuniary affairs, the Council would refer to the ordinary balance sheet, with the accompanying report of the Auditors.

* Composed of Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S., V.P.; George Porter, Esq., F.R.S. Treasurer; James Whishaw, Esq.; Dr. Lister; Dr. Guy; W. D. Oswald, Esq.; Joseph Fletcher, Esq.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1843.

RECEIPTS.

1843.					£. s. d.
To Balance in the hands of the Treasurer and Secretaries					42 18 6
				£. s. d.	
Arrears of Subscriptions: 1 for 1838				2 2 0	
2 for 1839				4 4 0	
4 for 1840				8 8 0	
10 for 1841				21 0 0	
24 for 1842				50 8 0	
				<hr/>	
					86 2 0
Subscriptions 313 for 1843					657 6 0
Compositions					60 18 0
Messrs. Parker for sale of Journal					74 19 6
Dividends on Stock					43 8 3
Sale of Lithographic Press					10 0 0
Balance due to Petty Cash					22 7 8
					<hr/>
					£997 19 11

Assets, December 31, 1843:—

					£. s. d.
Stock in the Reduced $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 569 17 0	cost	567 0 0			
Consols $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 328 15 4	„	300 0 0			
Cash Balance		96 12 11			
		<hr/>			
					963 12 11

Balances of Grants made to Committees:—

				£. s. d.
Library Committee				9 11 1
Education Committee				1 5 11
Hospital Statistics Committee				2 1 4
House Committee				8 9 11
				<hr/>
				21 8 2

Due to the Society:—

Dividend on Stock				29 16 0
Messrs. Parker for sale of Journal.				36 18 0

Members in arrear of Annual Subscription:—

				£. s. d.
6 for 1839				12 12 0
7 for 1840				14 14 0
13 for 1841				27 6 0
27 for 1842				56 14 0
70 for 1843				147 0 0
				<hr/>
				258 6 0
Deduct amount not likely to be paid				156 6 0
				<hr/>
				102 0 0

Total due to the Society £190 2 2

EXPENDITURE.

1843.				£. s. d.
By Rent				127 10 0
Salaries				204 19 0
Furniture, 50 <i>l.</i> , Housekeeping expenses, 70 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>				120 7 1
Messrs Clowes for Printing, 1842.				163 19 0
,, ,, 1843.				129 11 0
				<hr/>
Carried forward				746 6 1

	£.	s.	d.
1843.			
By Editor of Journal one year	Brought forward	746	6 1
Advertising the Journal		75	0 0
Stationery		13	18 0
Lithography		7	10 7
Parcels and Postages		1	18 0
Library		11	3 6
Insurance		19	1 10
Miscellaneous		2	8 9
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer		24	0 3
		96	12 11
		£997	19 11

Liabilities of the Society, December 31, 1843 :—

Messrs. Clowes for Printing	121	0	0
Messrs. R. T. Thorne for binding books, &c.	4	2	6
Messrs. Bailliere for Books	1	1	0
Messrs. Blackwood for Books	1	16	0
Petty Cash Balance	22	7	8
	£150	7	2

Examined and approved JOHN BOWRING, }
 R. C. GRIFFITH, } *Auditors.*
 JOHN DUNLOP, }

January 30, 1844.

The Metropolis; its Boundaries, Extent, and Divisions for Local Government. By JOSEPH FLETCHER, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Honorary Secretary.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 19th February and 18th March, 1844.]*

THE outer boundary of the Police Courts Districts, which the considerations enumerated in the preceding part of this paper will, I think, lead us to adopt as that of the Metropolis, at least for the present, completely encircles the whole of the metropolitan boroughs, inclusive of Greenwich, and all the other districts which have been described; and it marks out, with geographical accuracy, the great vale filled by the metropolis and its suburbs, which is bounded on the east by Shooter's Hill; on the south by the hills of Norwood and Streatham; on the west by those of Wimbledon and Roehampton; on the north by those of Kensal Green, Kilburn, Hampstead, Highgate, and Hornsey; and on the east by the Marshes of the Lea and the Thames.†

Some idea of the wild state of this vale during all the earlier history of London, and some conception of the value once attached to the citizens' most ancient privilege of hunting in Middlesex and Surrey, may be derived from the fact that one hundred (tantamount originally to a city ward), comprises the whole of the Middlesex portions of the metropolis lying beyond the Cities and Liberties of London and West-

* For the earlier portion of this paper, see p. 69.

† The southern and least populated parts of the parishes of Lambeth and Camberwell lie, it is true, beyond this boundary; but their omission is not noticed in the text, because it has been for some time in the contemplation of Government to include them in the district of another police court, to be erected in addition to those hereafter enumerated, for parts of Lambeth, Kennington, Clapham, Camberwell, and Brixton. For the site of this court, the Commissioners of Metropolitan Police have at last fixed upon a spot in the Kennington-road, near the Zoological Gardens.